



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484, benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg



Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse@St Francis Xavier:
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

Assistant Priest
Rev Fr Cornelius Ching
6282 3151, cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg

Authentic Service for God

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
26 September 2021

Nm 11:25 – 29
Jm 5:1 – 6
Mk 9:38 – 43, 45, 47 – 48

In last week's Gospel, Jesus taught his disciples that true greatness comes from humble service of others. In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus continues the formation of his disciples, telling John not to stop an exorcist who was not a disciple, but working in Jesus' name. John's action may have stemmed from frustration with his own earlier failure to perform exorcisms (Mark 9:14 – 29). The disciples might have felt that they were more "qualified" to cast out demons as compared to others who are non-followers of Jesus. Envy might have motivated their curtailment of ministry in Jesus' name.

Today's Gospel incident invites us to reflect on our own interior responses when it comes to ministry and service of others and particularly within Church. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians about how jealousy and strife prevented them from receiving solid spiritual food (1 Cor 3:1-3). Likewise, our interior approach to service of the Lord and others may well hamper fruitfulness.

Many of us enter ministry and service with much of our own brokenness. For some, self-worth is very much dependent on whether we can show greater success compared to and in lieu of others. Many a times we carry this brokenness into our service of God, trying to prove our worth rather than serving God authentically. We become slaves when we choose to



"Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love." – St Thérèse of Lisieux

serve anyone or anything else other than God. Do we seek to glorify God in all the work that we do? Or are we expecting some form of personal glory when we are serving Him? Many a times our "services" and "ministry" is a projection of our own self-centredness, self-preservation, egoism and pride.

Can we serve God and/or others without expecting anything? Is it wrong to feel good about ourselves when serving God? Is it bad to accept praise and reward for services to God and others? This very much depends on the motivation of our hearts in responding to the call to serve. Authentic service to the Lord and others must first be motivated by a love of God and carried out in a "hidden" way, far from the glare and publicity of earthly grandeur. The purity of motivation for service will come from being a discerning disciple of Christ, rooted in a deep relationship with God and finding God in all things and for the greater glory of him, who first loved us. St Thérèse of Lisieux once said, "Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love."

An opportunity for authentic service arises today as the Church celebrates World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), which has been celebrated on the last Sunday of September since 1914. This year, the Holy Father Pope Francis has chosen the

theme, "Towards an ever wider 'We'". In the first paragraph of his WDMR message, he reminded us of what he wrote in his third Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (which means "All Brothers", published on 3rd October 2020), and that "once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egoistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those' but only 'us'". He also reminded us that "Salvation history... has a 'we' in its beginning and 'we' at its end, and at its centre the mystery of Christ, who died and rose so that they may all be one." He attributed this brokenness to our "myopic and aggressive forms of nationalism (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 11) and radical individualism (cf. *ibid.*, 105). And the highest price is being paid by those who most easily become viewed as 'others': foreigners, migrants, the marginalized, those living on the existential peripheries." Once again, this message points us towards humble service of others because we are all one people in the eyes of God.

May the Gospel reading today and the admonishment of the second reading from St. James, spur us not only to be of service to God and our neighbour, but also serve with a pure heart, using all that God has given us, withholding nothing.

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

COME, ADORE AND PRAY



Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11: 28

Come, adore and pray. **Every Wednesday** between **7pm - 10.30pm**, John Paul II Hall will be open for silent prayer for SFX registered parishioners. No booking is required, but a maximum of 10 people at one time will be allowed. Usual safe distancing measures are applicable. For more details, visit www.sfxchurch.sg/come-adore-pray-with-jesus.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online on **Fri 1 Oct, 8pm** to pray and intercede for others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP1OCT



DIVORCE, SEPARATION AND ANNULMENT SYMPOSIUM

Couples enter into marriage with faith and hope that it will be a happy union that lasts. However, there are occasions when a couple faces an unhappy end to their married life together. How can Catholics in such a situation continue their life journey in a way that keeps them in full communion with the Church? This Symposium by Fr Terence Pereira will help participants gain an insight into the complexity of the issues related to divorce, separation and annulment.

Dates: Fri 1 Oct (Part 1), Fri 8 Oct (Part 2)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Register: <http://bit.ly/DSA-SG>

Cost: FREE

(Love offerings are welcome)

OCTOBER - MASS BOOKING

[HTTPS://MYCATHOLIC.SG](https://mycatholic.sg)

Tue 28 Sep, 12pm

1st booking for all weekday Masses and one weekend Mass*.

**Weekday Mass bookings for whole of Oct are open throughout the month and subject to availability with a cap of five weekday Masses per booking.*

Fully Vaccinated/PET Masses (180pax):

- **Fridays:** 8pm • **Saturdays:** 5.30pm
- **Sundays:** 9am, 1pm

Things to note:

- **All Masses will be held in the Main Church.** Entry for 50 persons Masses will only be via the Plaza.
- Mass bookings/cancellations may be made **1 hour** before Mass.
- Vaccinated parishioners should refrain from booking unvaccinated Mass slots.

MASSES FOR FULLY VACCINATED/PET INDIVIDUALS:

Admission Criteria:

Fully Vaccinated
14 days after 2nd dose of Pfizer/Moderna/WHO EUL vaccines.

TraceTogether
Check in via TraceTogether token/app.

Pre-Event Testing
Taken from MOH-approved test provider. No earlier than 23 hours before Mass. Only local vaccination certificates or Health Hub vaccination proof are accepted.

Children aged 12 years and below
can participate in Vaccinated/PET Masses. The total number of children allowed is no more than **20 percent** of worshippers present for the Mass.

Other Vaccines
- Self-test Kit

For more information on the MOH guidelines, visit www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet



MASS COLLECTION

Your continuous generosity and donations will help contribute to our Parish's daily operations. You can make your offerings via the following options:

1. **PayNow** - Launch the PayNow service on your bank's app or online website. Select "Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)" and enter "T08CC4033J". Proceed to check entity name - **Church of St Francis Xavier**, then key in amount. Lastly, key in the reference - Mass Collection.
2. **Cheque** - Payable to 'Church of St Francis Xavier' and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

OCTOBER CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION



The Church is organising a nightly procession within the church grounds in honour of Our Lady from **1st to 31st October**. All SFX registered parishioners are invited to participate in the procession. What you need to do is register with your group (a minimum of 6 and maximum of 30 persons per session) on a first-come, first-served basis. For further enquires, you may email to oct2021rosary@gmail.com.

Procession Schedule

Mon and Fri: 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun: 8pm - 9pm

Find out more and register: <https://tinyurl.com/SFXOctProcession2021>



MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE RETREAT: MARY FULL OF GRACE

Why should I be honoured by the visit from the mother of my Lord, woman full of grace? "Mary alone found grace before God without the help of any other creature. All those who have since found grace before God have found it only through her." (TD #44)

Come and discover Mary, the Mother and Treasurer of Grace, in our classic 3D2N retreat at Montfort Centre.

Dates: Fri 8 Oct, 7pm - Sun 10 Oct, 1pm

Venue: 624 Upper Bukit Timah Rd, Singapore 678212

Register: www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/mary-full-of-grace

First Holy Communion

We feature in this issue some pictures of the 24 children who received both the body and blood of our Lord on **4** and **11 Sep**, following in the footsteps of their other brothers and sisters who completed the Sacrament on **21** and **28 Aug**. Let us continue to pray for the L3 cohort, that in their participation in this Eucharistic banquet, that they will become living, breathing tabernacles who carry Jesus in their hearts and souls to all they meet.





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!



Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm

WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset
(VACCINATED/
PET ONLY):**
5.30pm

Sun: 9am, 11am,
1pm, 5.30pm
*(There is currently
no Confession
before Mass)*

**MASS ON PUBLIC
HOLIDAYS**
9am

HOLY HOUR
Suspended until
further notice

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

For pastoral care services (e.g. anointing, funerals etc), you may contact before coming at the following hours.

Mon - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until
further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until
further notice

COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:
10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4pm
Booking via
<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>

Blessings on Your First Holy Communion

1. Alexis Lu Jia'en
2. Cara Lim Yu En
3. Clare Wee En Shuen
4. Daniel John Tan Meng Kwang
5. Elliot Pang Ye Heng
6. Elyse Goh
7. Emma Marie Koh Rae-En
8. Gemma Tay Jia Xin
9. Isaiah Evan Lee Rui Jun
10. Jacob Chiang Wan Lit
11. Joshua Kaw
12. Joy Isabelle Chia Xi Wen
13. Julian Nathaniel Koh Rae-Hng
14. Kaelyn Alexandria Chen Kai Li
15. Kyle Joshua Mahen
16. Levi Mikael Olsen
17. Lucas Tan Yi Hao
18. Matthew Yap Guan Yi
19. Sui Tit Tong Kate Le Wan
20. Tham Yi Zheng Micah Thaddeus
21. Tricia Dia Lu
22. Tyler James Beins
23. Victoria Anne Sng
24. Zac Ng (Huang Kaiting)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.

INFANT BAPTISM



For more information, please contact the Parish Office for Baptism of Infants.

FUNERAL



Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE



Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date.

MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least one week in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg